Listing of claims:

1. (previously amended) A method for controlling backlighting, comprising:

continuously measuring ambient light conditions with a light sensor;

producing a continuous light-level signal in response to the continuous measuring by the light sensor;

producing a continuous feedback signal in response to the continuous light-level signal; and

producing a signal for driving backlighting in response to the continuous feedback signal such that the driving signal drives the backlighting in proportion to ambient light.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the continuous feedback signal is produced by summing the continuous light-level signal and a voltage reference signal at a first input node of an amplifier.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the voltage reference signal is produced by a bandgap voltage reference.

4. (previously amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the continuous feedback signal is provided by coupling an output of the amplifier to a second input pin of the amplifier.

5. (previously amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the continuous light-level signal is produced by supplying current from the continuous feedback signal to the light sensor.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the continuous light-level signal is produced by resistively coupling the driving signal to the light sensor.

7. (previously amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the driving signal is produced by a switching circuit and an inductor, wherein the switching circuit operates in response to the continuous feedback signal.

8. (previously amended) A circuit for controlling backlighting, comprising:

means for continuously measuring ambient light;

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means for producing a continuous light-level signal in response to the continuous measuring by the ambient light measuring means;

amplifier means for producing a continuous feedback signal in response to the continuous light-level signal; and

means for producing a signal for driving backlighting in response to the continuous feedback signal such that the driving signal drives the backlighting in proportion to ambient light.

9. (Original) The circuit of claim 8, wherein the continuous feedback signal is produced by summing the continuous light-level signal and a voltage reference signal at a first input node of the amplifier means.

10. (Original) The circuit of claim 9, wherein the voltage reference signal is produced by a bandgap voltage reference.

11. (previously amended) The circuit of claim 9, wherein the continuous feedback signal is provided by coupling an output of the amplifier means to a second input pin of the amplifier means.

12. (previously amended) The circuit of claim 8, wherein the continuous light-level signal is produced by supplying current from the continuous feedback signal to the ambient light measuring means.

13. (Original) The circuit of claim 8, wherein the continuous light-level signal is produced by resistively coupling the driving signal to the ambient light measuring means.

14. (previously amended) The circuit of claim 8, wherein the driving signal is produced by a switching means and an inductor, wherein the switching means is arranged to operate in response to the continuous feedback signal.

15. (previously amended) A circuit for controlling backlighting, comprising:

a light sensor that is arranged to continuously measuring ambient light conditions;

a resistor that is arranged to produce a continuous light-level signal in response to the continuous measuring by the light sensor;

an amplifier that is arranged to produce a continuous feedback signal in response to the continuous light-level signal; and

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a driver that is arranged to produce a signal for driving backlighting in response to the continuous feedback signal such that the driving signal drives the backlighting in proportion to ambient light.

16. (Original) The circuit of claim 15, wherein the continuous feedback signal is produced by summing the continuous light-level signal and a voltage reference signal at a first input node of the amplifier.

17. (previously amended) The circuit of claim 16, wherein the continuous feedback signal is provided by coupling an output of the amplifier to a second input pin of the amplifier.

18. (previously amended) The circuit of claim 15, wherein the continuous feedback signal is coupled to the light sensor.

19. (previously amended) The circuit of claim 15, wherein the driving signal is produced by a switching circuit and an inductor, wherein the switching circuit is arranged to operate in response to the continuous feedback signal.

20. (new) A method for controlling backlighting, comprising:

producing a continuous light-level signal in response to a continuous measuring of ambient light conditions by a light sensor;

producing a continuous feedback signal by summing the continuous light-level signal and a voltage reference signal at a first input node of an amplifier in response to the continuous light-level signal, wherein the continuous feedback signal and continuous light-level signal are summed using the same substrate where the amplifier is formed; and

producing a signal for driving backlighting in response to the continuous feedback signal such that the driving signal drives the backlighting in proportion to ambient light.

21. (new) The method of claim 20, wherein the continuous feedback signal is produced by coupling an output of the amplifier to a second input pin of the amplifier.

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